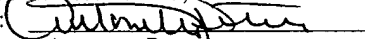


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kawarabata et al. Confirmation No.: Unknown
Serial No.: 10/550,070
Filed: September 21, 2005 Docket: 10873.1783USWO
Title: BLOOD FILTER DEVICE AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE
SAME

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 13, 2005.

By: 
Name: Antonette Peters

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

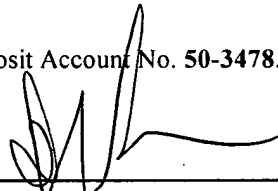
Commissioner:

The following papers are transmitted herewith:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 4 references
- ☒ Return Postcard

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902 Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.455-3800

By: 
Name: Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
Initials: DPM/acp

S/N 10/550,070

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	KAWARABATA	Serial No.:	10/550,070
Filed:	September 21, 2005	Docket No.:	10873.1783USWO
Title:	BLOOD FILTER DEVICE AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

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By: 

Name: Antonette Peters

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided. Applicants believe the references from the International Search Report are available to the Examiner, and therefore copies are not provided.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

JP 3270193 corresponds to US 5,618,425

JP 3012692 corresponds to US 5,651,765

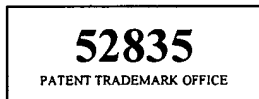
JP 2000-60967 corresponds to US 6,398,955

US 5,651,756 is the Continuation-in-Part of US 5,782,791

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478.



Dated: December 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
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Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/acp

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.1823USWO	Application Number: 10/550,070
	Applicant: KAWARABATA et al.	
	Filing Date: September 21, 2005	Group Art Unit Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	US 5,618,425	04/1997	Mitamura et al.				
	US 5,651,765	07/1997	Haworth et al.				
	US 6,398,955	06/2002	Fumiyama et al.				
	US 5,782,791	07/1998	Peterson et al.				
	US 6,143,174	11/2000	Graus				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	JP 3270193	01/2002	Japan			See IDS	
	JP 3012692	12/1999	Japan			See IDS	
	JP 2000-60967	02/2000	Japan			See IDS	
	JP 4-106605	09/1992	Japan			Partial	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	